

ACTORS ON THE ROAD.

Observant Train Boy Who Has Noted Their Peculiarities.

A train boy on one of the leading railroads thus gives his observations on actors: "One of the most noticeable habits of the 'profession' when they are on the road is the way they seat themselves in a train. The leaders invariably sit by themselves, and the rest of the company follows suit, each according to his own view of his position. And never, except on rare occasions, do they address a word to the members of the company whom they consider lower in rank. It is very easy for a train boy to get into conversation with a member of a troupe. The train boy is of so little importance, you know, that surely there is no harm in talking to him. And, judging by the stories I have told me, there are more stars on the stage than the theater-going public has any idea of."

"Oh what a difference between a company going out and when you see them straggling back in twos and threes minus their baggage. On the way out each one is bragging about the companies they have been with. 'This one was not up to the standard, but the manager being a personal friend of his or hers they decided to help him out.' On the way back note the difference. If they talk at all it is rather low, and they wonder if there is any chance for them yet this season. But, as a rule, I rather think they wait around till next season."

"On the road they spend a good deal of their time in sleeping, and it is amazing the way an old hand at one-night stands can curl himself up in a seat. One often hears people who know nothing at all of theatrical life say it is one of the easiest professions there is. Perhaps it is in the large cities, but there is a wonderful difference in a company starting out and a company returning from six or eight weeks of one-night stands. That tired look they come back with is not there when they start out."

"But what surprises one most is the jealousy existing among the various members of a company. Though, if one considers a moment, it is not surprising at all. Each is so assured of his own ability and his own superiority over the rest that they are bound to be a clash. This jealousy is more noticeable among the women, though the men have it to a lesser extent. The men are the most inveterate poker players I have ever seen. But, though poker is their chief amusement, you seldom see them playing during the middle of the week, as they start playing as soon as they are paid, and usually lose all they care to lose by Monday morning. They are nearly always cheerful, their bump of self-esteem carrying them through trials that would dishearten an ordinary mortal."—Philadelphia Times.

Lima Beans.

"Probably three-fourths of the lima beans consumed in this country," said a Californian, "are grown in California, and a great portion of them are raised in the Santa Clara Valley. The climate and surroundings there are especially suited to the raising of these, for it is so dry that the beans can be grown right on the ground, thus saving the expense of poles and of propping the vines up in any way. You don't find over one bad or imperfect bean in a bushel. The result is that it costs so little to grow them that they can in turn be sold cheap. You can buy them in the markets and stores East at retail at four and five cents a pound. In California the growers are glad to get one cent a pound for them—shelled and dried. I know of one farm that shipped seventeen carloads of these beans last season. As a body and brain food, the lima is much more valuable than the ordinary white or black bean."

Europe's Stock of Gold.

Since 1890 the gold in European banks has increased by \$623,200,000. Of this the Imperial Bank of Russia has gained \$185,500,000, the Bank of France \$107,400,000, the Bank of England \$111,000,000, the Austro-Hungarian Bank \$79,500,000, and the Imperial Bank of Germany \$39,000,000. The gold comes from the American monetary circulation and from the production of the gold mines. At the end of 1895 the Bank of France and the Imperial Bank of Russia between them held \$776,000,000 in gold, a little more than half the stock of gold in the European banks, and this does not include the gold in the Russian treasury, which is estimated at \$510,400,000. The gold in Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy amounts to \$330,000,000, and that in the Bank of England to \$580,900,000.—Economiste European.

Good Manners and Health.

St. Louis' Health Board hopes to improve manners and increase sanitation by law. It will ask the Municipal Assembly, as the municipal legislative board in St. Louis is termed, to adopt an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for any person to expectorate on the floors of street cars or other public conveyances, or in hotel corridors, theaters, public halls, and places of worship; also that the porters or persons in charge of the cars and public places be required to furnish cuspidors in sufficient number, and that they be required to clean the vessels daily, using some disinfecting fluid to be approved by the Board of Health.

Cure for Hiccough.

A female patient presented herself at a French hospital for a rebellious hiccough, which had resisted all treatment for four days. She was asked to show her tongue, and it was noticed that with the putting out of the tongue the hiccough ceased. The same thing has been since tried, and with success in other cases. All that is necessary apparently is to strongly push the tongue out of the mouth and hold it so for a minute or two.

Found After Many Years.

A strange story of money recovered comes from Liverpool. A chimney sweep in cleaning an oven found £40 in coin in a bag. On telling the lady of the house she burst into tears and fainted. She had put the money there herself years ago, and, having forgotten the fact, accused her son, who was rather wild, of stealing it, with the result that he had left the house in indignation and had never returned.

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A Wise Judge.

A curious judgment was pronounced the other day by a judge in a court of law at Volosso, in the island of Selo. An action for damages was brought by two persons against the local railway company for losses sustained by a collision. It appeared that a man had lost an arm and a young woman had lost her husband. The judge, a Greek, assessed the damages thus: He gave 6,000 piasters to the man for the loss of his arm and 2,000 to the woman for the loss of her husband. At this there were loud murmurs, whereupon the judge gave his reasons in these terms: "My dear people, my verdict must remain, for you will see it is a just one. Poor Nikola has lost his arm and nothing on earth can restore that priceless limb. But you" (turning to the woman)—"you are still young and pretty. You have now some money; you will easily find another husband, who possibly may be as good as—perhaps better than—your dead lord. That is my verdict, my people, and so it must go forth." So saying the judge left the hall. The people cheered him and congratulated themselves on having such a judge.

The Coinage Question.

The Washington Star satirizes a somewhat numerous class in the following imagined dialogue: "Hiram," said Mrs. Cornstassel, "which kind of money do you favor?" "Well, 'Mandy," replied the old gentleman, "I tell ye the truth, I kinder hate ter express any opinion. I've seen a lot of fellers sit down an' worry 'bout makin' a 'chice, an' the fust thing they knew they didn't hev none of neither kind."

When there is a snow storm the fancy of very young men lightly turns to thoughts of tracking rabbits.

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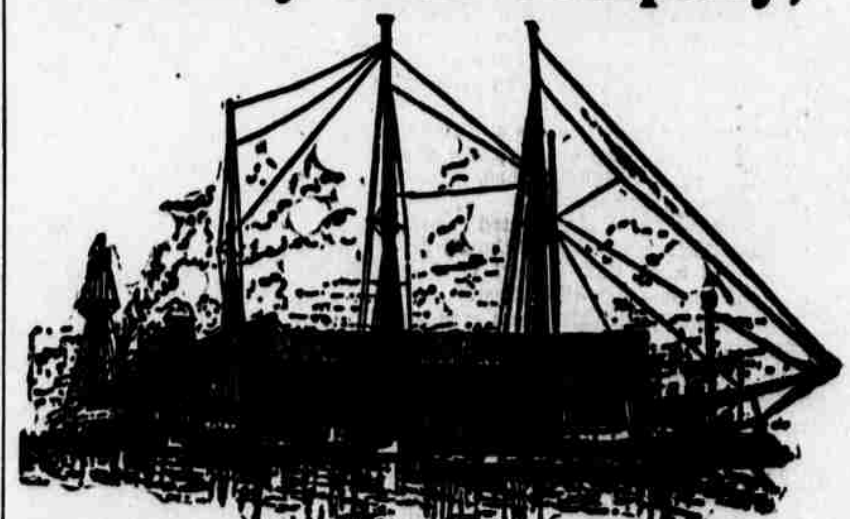
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